IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

An Amendment and Request for Reconsideration was filed on December 17, 2004. However, those amendments were not entered as set forth in the Advisory Action dated January 24, 2005.

Another Amendment and Request for Reconsideration was filed on February 17, 2005. However, those amendments were not entered as set forth in the Advisory Action dated April 4, 2005.

Claims 1–27: Canceled.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants and

growing the plants under drought conditions ~~selecting plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide~~.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

growing the plants under drought conditions ~~selecting plants which have higher drought resistance compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide~~.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants,

comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants and

growing the plants under high salt conditions ~~selecting plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide~~.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants ~~the plant~~, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

growing the plants under high salt conditions ~~selecting plants which have higher resistance to high salt concentration compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide~~.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 48 (New): A method of increasing the raffinose synthase activity of plants, comprising

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, wherein the plants have a higher raffinose synthase activity compared to the plants prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

Claim 49 (New): The method of Claim 48, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or

Claim 50 (New): The method of Claim 48, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Claim 51 (New): The method of Claim 48, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 52 (New): The method of Claim 48, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 53 (New): The method of Claim 48, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 54 (New): The method of Claim 48, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

## SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 28 and 33 have been amended to specify growing plants under drought conditions. Claims 38 and 43 have been amended to specify growing plants under high salt conditions. Claims 48-54 are newly-added. The amendments and the new claims are supported by the specification at pages 4-25, especially pages 15 and 25. One reading the present specification would appreciate that growing the transformed plants under those conditions was clearly described, since the specification explicitly describes that the transformed plants have higher drought resistance and higher resistance to high salt concentrations. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.